

REMARKS

Claim 6 has been amended by this Amendment. Claims 6 – 14 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 6 - 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 6, 7, and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barnish et al GB 957,944. Also, in the Office Action, claims 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnish et al GB 957,944.

With respect to the rejection of claims 6 - 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of claim 6.

With respect to the rejection of claims 6 – 14 variously under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a), favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of claim 6 and the following comments.

Claim 6 of the present invention as currently amended recites a method for washing laundry in a process-controlled household washing machine comprising a wash liquid container for receiving laundry and wash liquid intended for washing the laundry. For specifically, the method for washing laundry is for use in a process-controlled household washing machine wherein a heating device and a temperature sensor are attached, wherein water for washing is poured into the wash liquid container during a filling phase and the temperature sensor delivers signals for the respective temperature of the water or the wash liquid to a process control system during a washing phase and, as well, the process control system derives commands for controlling the heating device for

heating the wash liquid from the temperature signals. The inventive method for washing laundry recited in claim 6 of the present invention as currently amended is for additionally more specifically for use in a process-controlled household washing machine wherein a nominal washing process runs at a temperature of the water or the wash liquid at the level of a standard value with a heating phase which begins with switching on the heating device and a post-wash phase without adding further heat energy, and lasts for a defined constant time from the beginning of switching on the heating device until the end of the post-wash phase. In accordance with the inventive method for washing laundry recited in claim 6 of the present invention as currently amended, the temperature of the water or the wash liquid is determined at or after the end of the filling with water. In the event of a determined temperature of less than a standard value for the amount of water which has freshly run into the wash liquid container before the beginning of the washing process, the heating device is switched on and, further, the beginning of the washing process is delayed by a defined time interval ($t_{OK} - t_{OS}$) but from there on lasts the same time as the nominal washing process.

Barnish et al GB 957,944 discloses its "low", "medium", and "high" temperature programs for a laundry washing process.

Applicants respectfully submit that Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not teach or disclose the laundry washing method of the present application. For example, Barnish et al GB 957,944 does not teach one of the steps of the laundry washing method of the present application –specifically, that the beginning of the washing process is delayed by a defined time interval ($t_{OK} - t_{OS}$) but from there on lasts the same time as the typical washing process. Instead, Barnish et al GB 957,944 discloses that each of its "low", "medium", and "high" temperature programs has its own step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the respective "low", "medium", and "high"

temperature that lasts a length of time that is different than the length of time for the other temperature programs. Specifically, the "low" temperature program of Barnish et al GB 957,944 has its own step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the "low" temperature that lasts a length of time of 14 minutes (see Page 2, line 84, of Barnish et al GB 957,944). In like manner, the "medium" temperature program of Barnish et al GB 957,944 has its own step of continuing the washing process after the water temperature has reached the "medium" temperature that lasts a length of time of 16 minutes (see Page 3, line 4, of Barnish et al GB 957,944).

Thus, the length of time of 14 minutes of the "low" temperature program of Barnish et al GB 957,944 is a different length of time than the length of time of 16 minutes of the "medium" temperature program of Barnish et al GB 957,944. In contrast, the length of time of the washing process W of the present application is the same following a filling of water having a temperature of standard value (S) – the length of time ($t_{ES} - t_{0S}$) - as the length of time of the washing process W of the present application following a filling of water having a temperature of less than a standard value (S) – the length of time ($t_{EK} - t_{0K}$) – namely, $(t_{ES} - t_{0S}) = (t_{EK} - t_{0K})$.

It therefore respectfully requested that the prior art rejection of claim 6, and claims 7 – 10 depending ultimately therefrom, be withdrawn. Also, it is respectfully requested that claim 11, and claims 12 – 14 depending ultimately therefrom, be withdrawn as well, for at least the same reasons as set forth with respect to claim 6 above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 6 – 14 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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